Disqualification of Non-Serious Political Parties

4426. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently suggested disqualification of non-serious political parties which have not been active during the last five years:

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such parties:

(c) whether some suggestions have also been made regarding the contest of independents candidates, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Certain proposals to discourage contest by non-serious independent candidates were discussed by the Government with political parties some time back. Based on the consensus arrived at, some of these suggestions were given effect to by the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1996.

Assistance to A.P. by World Bank

4427. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have permitted to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to have assistance from World Bank for improvement of their financial position; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance sought by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh alongwith the assistance provided and proposed to be provided by the World Bank sofar?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government of Andhra Pradesh have been having some discussions with the World Bank regarding a Fiscal Adjustment Programme. The State Government have been requested to firm up their views and ideas and to send to the Central Government a detailed project proposal which could then be considered by the Central Government. Since the detailed proposal is yet to be received, no formal proposal has been sent to the World Bank to provide such assistance.

(b) Does not arise.

Dubious Companies in Teak Plantation

4428. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government ae aware of growing number of dubious companies getting into teak plantation business praying on small investors through attractive promises of return on investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of small investors and ensure that funds collected by such companies are utilised properly for intended purpose and not diverted to other activities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that companies engaged in teak plantation business as their principal business are excluded from the definition of 'financial institutions' and as such are outside the purview of the various regulatory provisions of Chapter-III-B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1994.

Maruti Udyog

4429. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Excise Department has asked the Maruti Udyog Limited to pay the outstanding amount for Rs. 50 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding amount from the maruti Udyog Limited?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Central Excise dues amounting to Rs.4995.72 lakhs (including penalty of Rs.1000.00 lakhs) are outstanding against M/s. Maruti Udyog Ltd.

The Company has obtained unconditional stay from Delhi High Court on 3.12.96 against any recovery proceedings.

Import of Rough Blanks

4430. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Othlamic Rough Blanks (ORB) for making spectacle and gogal frames are imported from different countries by importers in Optical Trade in Delhi and Bombay in Container Loads;

(b) whether these importers during the last many years have paid/transferred in foreign countries the difference between the actual amount to be paid to their foreign suppliers and the under invoiced amount by way of Hawala Transactions, thereby duping Government by evading the payment of customs duty and sales tax on under-invoiced value with the connivance of customs officers and Hawala Dealers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken against the importers of Delhi and Bombay indulging into gross violation of FERA?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import Scam

4431. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain officials found involved in clearing the garment consignments as "rags" in connivance with the importers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made into this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the investigations made into reg import scam; and

(e) the action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Enquiry in the matter has been initiated and details shall be provided on completion of the same.

Securities and Exchange Board of India

4432. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate amount of money raised by companies through Public and Rights issues by way of equity and convertible debentures (only Non-Debt portion) during each of the last three years and there present aggregate market value;

(b) the number of companies against whom SEBI has taken action during the last three years for misusing funds or not using the money for which it was raised through Public or Rights issue alongwith details of the action taken by SEBI against such erring companies; and

(c) the number of companies who raised their public issues in 1992-93 or onwards and are not traceable?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

B.R.B.N.M. Pvt. Ltd.

4433. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether BHARTIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE Mudran pvt. Ltd. had been incorporated under Company Act, 1956, to take over the new Note Press Project from Reserve Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has been flouted in violation of section 24 and section 25 of the RBI Act, 1956; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bhartiya Reserve bank Note Mudran Pvt. Ltd. was Incorporated on 3-2-1995.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of Punjab & Sind Bank

4434. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) in Delhi/New Delhi zones during each of the last three years in the last three years in the matter of deposits, advances non-fund business, profitability and house-keeping; and

(b) whether any managers/Officers of said branches were awarded for their performance during the said period; if so, the details thereof, branch-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The performance of Punjab & Sind Bank in Delhi/New Delhi Zones during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 in the matter of Deposits, Advances, Non-Funds Business, profitability and House-Keeping as reported by Punjab & Sind Bank is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	1	2	3
Gross Deposits			
New Delhi Zone	66826	87998	97774
Delhi Zone	15680	20753	26082
Advances			
New Delhi Zone	45760	27624	77458
Delhi Zone	5565	8927	10261
Non-Fund Business			
New Delhi Zone	632	928	1163
Delhi Zone	185	220	300
Profitability			
New Delhi Zone	1215	2862	2879
Delhi Zone	179	638	880